

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): Apparatus for selectively controlling access to a plurality of physical areas of a gaming machine, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of plural, electrically operable lock mechanisms, each respectively associated with one of the plurality of plural, physical areas and each lock mechanism physically movable between unlocked and locked conditions with respect to its associated area;

control circuitry including a processor operating under control of a stored program and coupled to each of the lock mechanisms for controlling operation thereof;

a data storage and retrieval system adapted to communicate with the processor and including a storage medium for storing data including personnel identification data and access authorization data indicative of the areas, if any, of the machine for which a person seeking access to the machine is authorized; and

a data input device coupled to the processor for inputting at least personnel identification data identifying a person seeking access to an area of the machine,

the processor being responsive to input personnel identification data for operating one or more lock mechanisms in accordance with access authorization corresponding to an identified person, said storage media storing personnel identification data that authorizes access by certain, identified personnel to some, but not all, of said plurality of physical areas, the processor causing the lock mechanisms of the physical areas to which access is authorized to move to the unlocked position to allow access to those physical areas.